

Uniformed Services Dietitian's Nutrition Symposium Boasts 194 Attendees!

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San Antonio was a big draw for this year's Uniformed Services Dietitian's Nutrition Symposium that was held before the American Dietetic Association's Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Oct. The 194 attendees were a record number for the symposium and included active duty and reserve from all three military services, dietitians from the Public Health Service, Veterans' Administration, and several retired military dietitians. The one and one-half day format allowed time to hear about a variety of topics ranging from reports from OIF, research initiatives, and eating disorders.

All three military services gave updates on OIF experiences, COL Vroegindewey, Assistant Chief, US Army VETCOM spoke about food as a weapon, and we heard about the new initiatives for the Public Health Service from CAPT Shirley Blakley. Col Ester Myers (USAF, Ret) brought us news from the American Dietetic Association, and Dr. Lori Love, MD, from the FDA Commissioners Office discussed dietary supplements. These were just some of the interesting and timely topics and professional presentations given by high caliber speakers.

The American Dietetic paid a special tribute to military dietitians at the opening ceremony where CPT Cherita Ogunsanya sang the National Anthem while photos of OIF dietitians in action were being flashed on the big screens. Military dietitians were also recognized during the 2003 President's Lecture where LTC (Ret) Kickbush gave an inspiring talk on leadership.

We want to thank the American Dietetic Association for their support of the Uniformed Services Dietitians Nutrition Symposium and remind everyone that next year the meeting will be held in Anaheim, CA. By the way, the convention center in Anaheim is next door to Disney Land!

